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CIA director William J. Casey received a Dutch decoration from Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands for participating in a cloak-and-dagger operation against German forces occupying Holland in 1944.

Casey was one of 16 veterans of the U.S. Office of Strategic Services awarded the Resistance Memorial Cross in a ceremony Thursday.

In 1944, Casey was head of secret intelligence for the organization in London. Most of the other participants parachuted behind the German lines as part of "Operation Melanie," one of the most successful moves for gathering intelligence on German forces. Two other recipients were leaders of the mission, Ides van der Gracht, now in retirement in Switzerland and Jan Laverge, who lives in Richmond, Va.